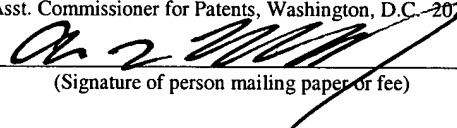


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Uwe Christiansen  
PCT serial no. : PCT/EP01/04139  
U.S. Serial No. : To be assigned  
Filed : April 11, 2001  
Priority date : April 22, 2000  
For : DEVICE FOR SINTERING OF A MOLD BODY

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NUMBER EL 256032526 US, Date of Deposit: December 20, 2001  
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Andrew L. Tiajolloff  
(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

  
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

Attention: Box PCT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Please amend the above application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 18 without prejudice, and add the following new claims:

19. A device for sintering of a mold body, said device comprising:  
a gas-tight chamber having an inner space therein and a duct communicating therewith  
and a heating zone in the inner space; and  
a device for vertical feeding of the mold body into the heating zone, said vertical feeding  
device having a hoisting apparatus extending into the inner space of the chamber through the